

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 EB-07 TRSE-00
OMB-01 EPG-02 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY COM/EEAD/OEWCA/BEWT/JBURGESS/SS
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
COM/OEWCA/BEWT/JMGEORGE
COM/OD/BEWT/AAREICH
STATE/EUR/EE/SFROMOWITZ

-----171023Z 107871 /21

R 162227Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, OCON, RO

SUBJECT: REICH--NICOLAE MEETING--JUNE 13, 1977

REFS: (A) STATE 135117 AND (B) GENEVA 4696

SUMMARY - MEETING FOR FIRST TIME WITH REICH, AMBASSADOR
NICOLAE RAISED SEVERAL POINTS PERTAINING TO UPCOMING FOURTH
SESSION OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION. MAJOR POINT OF DISCUSSION
WAS DESIRE OF DPM PATAN TO HOLD FOURTH SESSION IN SEPTEMBER,
IF POSSIBLE. CITING ARGUMENTS EXPRESSED IN REF A, REICH
NOTED USDOC PROBLEMS IN HOLDING SESSION IN SEPTEMBER OR
OCTOBER. NICOLAE INDICATED HE WOULD GET A BETTER READING
ON GOR ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER THAT ARE NECESSITATING
ATAN'S REQUEST AND GET BACK TO US LATER THIS MONTH.
NICOLAE ALSO RAISED STATUS OF TWO JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUPS
AGREED TO IN AGREED MINUTES OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION'S THIRD
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SESSION; INQUIRED AS TO REICH'S FEELINGS CONCERNING THE
UPCOMING MFN WAIVER EXTENSION; SOUGHT A STATUS REPORT ON
SEVERAL EXPORT CONTROL CASES; AND EXPRESSED CONTINUING GOR
UNHAPPINESS OVER SUITS STILL BEING EMBARGOED. END OF
SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 13, 1977, IN A 45 MINUTE SESSION NEW BEWT DAS

ALAN REICH MET FOR THE FIRST TIME OFFICIALLY WITH AMBASSADOR NICOLAE. AMBASSADOR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR FODOR. AFTER EXPRESSING SATISFACTION OVER RECENTLY CONCLUDED ISLAND CREEK COAL MINE CONTRACT, NICOLAE AND REICH DISCUSSED DATES FOR FOURTH SESSION OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION. AMBASSADOR CONVEYED MESSAGE FROM PATAN THAT, DUE TO MEETINGS, VISITS AND OTHER EVENTS IN ROMANIA, PATAN HOPED COMMISSION MEETING COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER. NOTING THAT SECRETARY KREPS LOOKED FORWARD TO UPCOMING SESSION OF COMMISSION AND CITING HER BUSY SCHEDULE IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER (OUT WITHOUT NAMING HER ITINERARY) REICH EXPLAINED OUR PREFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER DATES, SPECIFICALLY NOVEMBER 2-3.

AMBASSADOR WAS UNCERTAIN EXACTLY WHAT TIME PERIODS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER CAUSED DIFFICULTY FOR PATAN (PARTICULARLY RCP CONFERENCE WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER) BUT INDICATED HE WOULD FIND OUT AND GET BACK TO US BY END OF THE MONTH.

NICOLAE THOUGHT THAT

THE SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER MIGHT HOLD SOME PROMISE. LATER DATES WERE NOT DISCUSSED AT ANY LENGTH ALTHOUGH BOTH REICH AND NICOLAE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD NOT HAVE THE MEETING SLIP INTO JANUARY, IF POSSIBLE. REICH FELT SURE THAT DATES COULD BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

2. REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF COMMISSION MEETING, NICOLAE AND FODOR RAISED STATUS OF TWO JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTRONICS AND THIRD-COUNTRY COOPERATION) WHICH ARE CITED IN ITEM 13 OF AGREED MINUTES OF COMMISSION THIRD SESSION. SPECIFICALLY THEY ASKED WHAT WE WOULD REPORT TO THE FOURTH SESSION ON THESE TWO GROUPS SINCE NO MEETINGS HAD, AS YET, BEEN HELD. BEWT OFFICIALS REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THESE TWO GROUPS, AS WELL AS LIMITATIONS ON COMMERCE IN SPONSORING SUCH MEETINGS. REGARDING THIRD-COUNTRY COOPERATION, BEWT NOTED THAT A GOR PROPOSAL HAD BEEN RECEIVED EARLY IN 1977 AND THAT WE HAD STUDIED IT BUT THAT, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MARCH EARTHQUAKE, NO FURTHER ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN. BEWT AGREED TO GET BACK TO THE EMBASSY WITHIN TWO WEEKS ON THESE TWO JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUPS.

3. AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF EMIGRATION WAIVER NECESSARY TO CONTINUE MFN FOR ROMANIA. HE EXPRESSED GOR'S APPRECIATION OF PRESIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATION AND

NOTED THAT MANY CONGRESSMEN AGREED WITH RECOMMENDATION AND

SAW IT AS A RESPONSIBLE ACT BY THE PRESIDENT. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WERE OTHERS IN CONGRESS WHO HAD RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT ROMANIAN EMIGRATION, NICOLAE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT GOR PERFORMANCE ON EMIGRATION HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY (HE CITED TOTAL EMIGRATION FIGURE FROM ROMANIA OF 8,500 FOR 1976 COMPARED TO 9,000 FOR ONLY 5 MONTHS OF 1977). AMBASSADOR ASKED REICH'S OPINION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION AND WHAT COMMERCE AND THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE DOING IN SUPPORT OF THE WAIVER. REICH RESPONDED THAT GRANTING OF MFN HAD HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON OUR TRADE RELATIONS AND HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT PRESIDENT HAD EXTENDED THE WAIVER. REICH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OUR TRADE RELATIONS WERE NOT TO BE TREATED IN ISOLATION; THAT THEY WERE INTER-RELATED WITH OTHER ISSUES IN OUR RELATIONS AND THAT WE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CONGRESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATION CONCERNS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES.

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REICH SAID HE EXPECTED TO TESTIFY FOR COMMERCE AT THE UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL HEARING (JUNE 27 AND JULY 18) AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR COULD COUNT ON COMMERCE TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AND THE ACTIVE EXPANSION OF OUR TRADE RELATIONS. REICH ADDED THAT ANNUAL EMIGRATION WAIVER REVIEW OFFERED US THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE OUR VIEWS OPENLY WITH THE GOR. NICOLAE SAID HE HOPED TO EXPLAIN FULLY THE GOR'S POSITION IN LATER MEETINGS WITH REICH BUT HE DID NOTE ROMANIA'S CONCERN WITH UNCERTAINTY THAT THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF EMIGRATION WAIVER BRINGS TO OUR RELATIONS.

4. NICOLAE AND FODOR INQUIRED ABOUT SEVERAL EXPORT CONTROL CASES AND IN MOST INSTANCES WERE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE COMPANIES WHICH HAD BEEN RECENTLY ADVISED BY OEA REGARDING OUTCOME OF THEIR APPLICATIONS. REICH ALSO TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL AMBASSADOR THAT ALTHOUGH OEA WAS NO LONGER PART OF BEWT, NICOLAE SHOULD LOOK TO BEWT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING EXPORT LICENSES AND THAT BEWT WOULD ARRANGE ANY NECESSARY MEETINGS WITHIN COMMERCE.

5. IN A PARTING SHOT NICOLAE EXPRESSED GOR'S CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS OVER SUITS STILL BEING HELD BY USG. NOTING THAT THESE SUITS WERE NOW OUT OF SEASON AND THAT U.S.

CUSTOMER MAY DECIDE NOT TO ACCEPT SUITS EVEN IF THEY WERE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY, AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO GO OVER THE ISSUE AGAIN BUT THAT IT WAS A BLACK MARK IN OUR OTHERWISE GOOD COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT HAVE REF B AT THE TIME, BEWT
OFFICIALS DID INDICATE THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT
NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA WERE VERY CLOSE TO REACHING FINAL
AGREEMENT.

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6. COMMENT: BEWT POSITION REGARDING DATES EARLIER THAN
NOVEMBER FOR COMMISSION IS UNCHANGED FROM REF A. WITH
SECRETARY KREPS RETURNING FROM HER TRAVELS PROBABLY
AROUND MID-OCTOBER, COMMISSION MEETING IN SECOND HALF OF
OCTOBER WOULD PUT UNACCEPTABLE STRAIN ON SECRETARY, AS
WELL AS BEWT STAFF IN PREPARATION EFFORTS. WE ARE EN-
COURAGED BY AN APPARENT ROMANIAN WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG
WITH OUR TIMING IF EARLIER DATES ARE A PROBLEM FOR US.
IN ANY CASE WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS REGARDING
MEETING DATES AND GOR NEEDS. END OF COMMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EAST WEST TRADE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE140420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EEAD/OEWCA/BEWT/JBURGESS/SS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770216-0969
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770648/aaaabqgc.tel
Line Count: 191
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07b67c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 135117, 77 GENEVA 4696
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2120403
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REICH--NICOLAE MEETING--JUNE 13, 1977
TAGS: EEWT, OCON, RO, US, (REICH, ALAN), (NICOLAESCU, NICOLAE)
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07b67c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009